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# Destinations

Tucson Department  
of Transportation  
Bringing Life To Transportation

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The latest information from the Tucson Department of Transportation

Fall 2004

[www.dot.tucsonaz.gov](http://www.dot.tucsonaz.gov)

## PROGRESS REPORT on Road Recovery Program 2004

- ✓ 25 Miles Resurfaced
- ✓ 18 Streets Completed
- ✓ 6 Street Projects Underway
- ✓ 3 More Projects Starting This Fall

**T**DOT's Road Recovery Program 2004 is bringing much-needed improvements to a number of City streets, thanks to \$25 million in new funding that

needs. New impact fees on development will provide some funding to improve and maintain our streets, but the need will still be great. TDOT's goal is to use every option available to keep our citizens driving safely and smoothly.

was made available last summer by our Mayor and Council. Out of that sum, \$20 million is being used to repair and maintain our major streets that are most in need of repair. Five million is going to new sidewalks and streetlights.

Since July, TDOT crews have completed more than 25 miles of street resurfacing work, starting with the busiest streets that needed it most. Many more projects are underway or about to begin soon. When this year's Road Recovery Program is complete, Tucson will have more than 40 miles of safer, better streets and roads.

While the improvement is tremendous, we're still a long way from addressing all of our City's street repair and maintenance



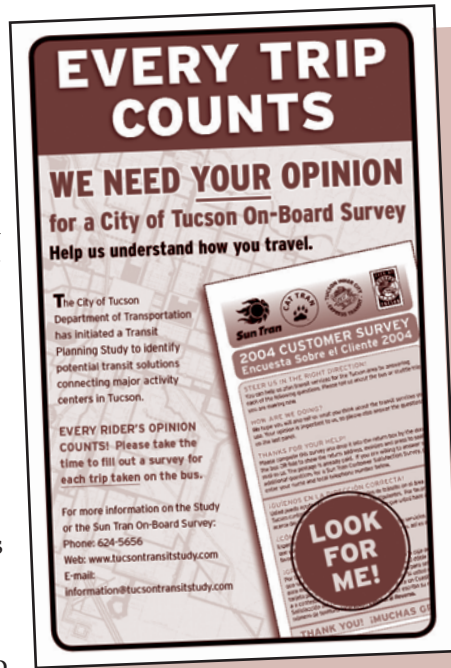
*Broadway Boulevard is being resurfaced from Park Avenue all the way to Craycroft Road with Road Recovery funds.*

## 'Alternatives Analysis' Bringing Transit Solutions

As Tucson grows and the traffic congestion increases, the City will need better transit. TDOT has begun an 18-month Major Transit Investment Study to identify potential transit solutions in central Tucson to connect University Medical Center and the University of Arizona to Downtown and the Río Nuevo District.

The federally sponsored study, also known as an Alternatives Analysis, will not only define the most promising transit route in this area and the best mode of transit, including the options of historic and modern streetcars, but will also build a solid foundation for possible future transit expansion within the Tucson region. The boundaries of the study area are Grant Road to the north, 22<sup>nd</sup> Street to the south, Grande Avenue to the west, and Campbell Avenue to the east.

The first step in the study, which began on October 14, was a three-week survey to gather the public's input on transit issues in central Tucson. Called an



On-Board Survey, it was designed to better understand passengers' riding habits and patterns, and identify areas and ideas for improving our transit system. Additional public outreach processes have also begun, such as creation of a stakeholder advisory group and scheduling of open houses.

Once the study results have been analyzed, Tucson's Mayor and Council will review the findings and make the final selection of the locally preferred transit alternative. The potential exists, through the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) New Start Program, to receive federal funding to develop a transit system within the study area that would become the start

of a greatly expanded and improved system.

For more information about the Alternatives Analysis, please call (520) 624-5656, or visit [www.tucsontransitstudy.com](http://www.tucsontransitstudy.com).



## New Impact Fees Will Pay for New Roads



In September, Tucson's Mayor and City Council approved impact fees on new homes to help pay for roads and parks. When they're implemented next summer, the fees will add about \$4,600 to the price of an average-sized, newly constructed home. Commercial developments will also have to pay the road fee (although not the park fee), which will be phased in over a number of years.

"The impact fees will make a difference in our ability to build new roads in Tucson, particularly in the parts of the community that are growing most quickly," said TDOT Director Jim Glock. "The added revenue will free up money to repair and maintain existing streets, but this is just part of the long-term transportation solution."

### Questions? More Information?

If you have a question about Tucson's transportation or if you would like to be added to the *Destinations* mailing list, call 791-4371 or email [michael.graham@tucsonaz.gov](mailto:michael.graham@tucsonaz.gov).

## Transportation *Goes Downtown*

As a regular feature of *Destinations*, we'll be focusing on transportation projects that are underway or about to begin Downtown.

**P**retty soon you'll have a great new place to park on the east side of Downtown! Construction is underway on the 750-space Pennington Street Garage, at the corner of Pennington Street and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, on the site of the former City Hall Annex.

The new parking structure – the first to be built Downtown in a decade – will be solar-powered, fully automated and equipped with a state-of-the-art parking validation system. The garage is an innovative, mixed-use development with ground-floor commercial space devoted to restaurants, retail shops and offices.



*When it's complete next summer, the Pennington Street Garage will provide ample, convenient parking for the east side of Downtown.*

The Pennington Street Garage is the first of several planned parking facilities called for in a parking master plan recently completed by TDOT's ParkWise Commission. The plan will be used to guide Downtown's parking needs for the next decade.

## Warming Up for Operation Freeze

**T**he twenty-one people assigned to TDOT's Operation Freeze are gearing up for cold winter weather. Their job is to make sure bridge decks don't ice over when temperatures dip below freezing and to place signs informing travelers of wet or icy roads. To keep bridges from freezing, TDOT applies a layer of magnesium chloride (a type of salt) to the asphalt. Magnesium chloride prevents ice from forming



a strong bond to the roads and helps keep roads from becoming slick. (We don't use sand because it is not as effective as magnesium chloride. Sand needs to be cleaned up after it is used and it creates hazards for motorcyclists.) You can do your part to stay safe by slowing down when approaching bridge deck crossings, and being patient when driving. That means you may want to allow yourself a few extra minutes on those cold winter mornings.

### Watch for Construction on...

LOCATION	TYPE OF WORK	END DATE
Wetmore Road (Fairview to Oracle)	Widening, adding bike lanes, streetlighting & sidewalks	Jan '05
5 New HAWK Pedestrian Signals:	Installation	Dec '04
1. First Avenue and Graybill Drive		
2. Broadway Boulevard and Cherry Avenue		
3. Ft. Lowell Road and Park Avenue		
4. Speedway Boulevard and Rook Avenue		
5. Grant Road and Palo Verde Boulevard		

During these improvements, business access will be maintained to the extent possible with only short, infrequent closures when necessary. Motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians traveling in the work area are asked to please obey all traffic control signs and be alert for construction equipment and personnel working in the area. For more information, visit the TDOT website at [www.dot.tucsonaz.gov](http://www.dot.tucsonaz.gov).





# Word on the Street

By Jim Glock, Director, Tucson Department of Transportation

Jim Glock,  
Director of TDOT

## Regional Transportation Planning Moves Forward

**T**he Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) Board is beginning to develop a regional transportation plan for the Tucson area, starting with the formation of a citizens committee. Rick Myers, a retired IBM executive, has been appointed chairperson of the committee. This is the first time our region's transportation issues are being approached in a collective, strategic manner. Pima Association of Governments (PAG) staff is providing strong support and assistance to the RTA Board. Tim Ahrens has been appointed RTA Manager for PAG and will take the lead on creating seamless communication between the Board and PAG staff.

## Drive Safely in Work Zones!

**I** probably don't need to tell you there's a lot of work going on around town on our streets and sidewalks! When you're driving through one of these work zones, please obey the posted speed limit signs and be alert for construction equipment and personnel working in the area. Your cooperation helps keep everyone safe, and ensures that the projects proceed as quickly as possible. And remember, traffic violation fines are double in construction zones.

## HAWK Earns National Attention

**T**ucson's new HAWK (High-intensity Activated crossWalk) pedestrian crossing signals have greatly improved pedestrian safety in Tucson. In fact, the technology has been so successful that the Federal Highway Administration paid Tucson a recent visit to look at the crossings and see how well they might work in other cities. The HAWK is used to assist with pedestrian crossings at marked crossing locations that are not associated with STOP signs or traditional traffic signal controls.

Here's how the HAWK works: The pedestrian activates the signal by pushing a button. The overhead signal begins flashing yellow and then solid yellow, advising drivers to prepare to stop. The signal then displays a solid red and shows the pedestrian a WALK indication. Finally, **an alternating flashing red signal indicates that motorists may proceed when safe, after coming to a full stop.** The pedestrian is shown a flashing DON'T WALK with a "countdown" signal indicating the time left to cross.

TDOT is installing five new HAWK signals around town. See the "Watch for Construction on..." box inside for exact locations.

## Sun Tran Bucks the Trends

**W**hile other cities around the country are seeing a decrease in bus ridership, Sun Tran has seen a steady increase over the last few years. Our

average weekday ridership is 58,775 passenger trips, but several times in the last couple of months we've topped out at over 60,000. While this is great news for our congested streets, it also means that the more popular bus

routes are often overcrowded at peak travel hours. Because Sun Tran operates on a fixed annual budget, adding more routes isn't an option right now, but we're looking at ways to accommodate the increase by adding more service soon. In the meantime, 'Get On Board' with transit!



## Email Your Questions

**I**f you have a question you'd like us to address in *Destinations*, email it to me at [jim.glock@tucsonaz.gov](mailto:jim.glock@tucsonaz.gov). Thanks!



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*Destinations* is produced by the Tucson Department of Transportation Public Information Office and the City of Tucson.

Para recibir esta información en español, sírvase llamar al 791-4371.